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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: February 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Update Regarding the Implementation of ch. 453, of the Acts of 2008:
"An Act Relative to Homeowner Heating Safety"

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with a summary and an update about the implementation of a new law, ch. 453, of the Acts of 2008: "An Act Relative to Homeowner Heating Safety".

Although this initiative was not sponsored by the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal and is mainly an environmental enhancement, the new law does require an upgrade for oil burner systems in residential structures, consisting of 1-4 units, which have an oil supply or return line in contact with earth or concrete surfaces. The upgrade involves the installation of a continuous protective sleeve or oil safety sensor valve installed by July 1, 2010. It is estimated that the cost to upgrade will be, on average, at about \$150 to \$350. The required upgrades can only be installed by an oil burner technician licensed in the Commonwealth pursuant to a permit issued by the local fire department.

It should be noted that such upgrades have already been required since January 1, 1990 for all new oil burner system installations/ alterations.

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) is currently in final stages of amending 527 CMR 4.00 to reflect the new law and to provide new/updated forms to facilitate implementation. Although the new law required the BFPR to promulgate revised regulations by April 30, 2010, it is expected that the regulations will be completed by the end of February.

If you need further information, please contact the Department of Fire Services, Division of Fire Safety, at 978-567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181.

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